



# Division of Fleet Operations Safe Driver Newsletter

## STAY IN YOUR SEAT – BUCKLE UP!

Volume 2  
June 2007

Welcome to the Division of Fleet Operations' second safety newsletter. Let's take a moment to be safe. "Stay in your seat – buckle up!" is our theme for 2007. Seatbelts save lives! Fleet Operations is pleased to announce our driver training programs for you, the driver. Check our website for training dates. **Check out our website at: <http://fleet.utah.gov> Go to the calendar for training dates.**

## Fines Double

As the summer progresses, we are likely to encounter construction zones along America's roadways. In the long run, these inconveniences will benefit drivers; in the short term, however, they can present a very dangerous situation for both drivers and construction workers. When we learn to drive, we are taught to respond to colors. Red means stop, yellow slow down and green, of course, go. There is another color we need to condition ourselves to respond to appropriately. Construction orange. The color of construction orange should cause us to respond with dedicated concentration. Using extra caution and common sense can help us avoid dangerous and frustrating situations through the many zones of summer roadwork. Here are some guidelines to make traveling in construction areas safer.

**Signs:** Construction zone signs give information from lanes ending to speed limits and are designed to create a safe environment for both drivers and workers. Remember also that the signs apply whether workers are present or not and fines are double in construction zones. Don't resume normal speeds until you are out of the posted construction area.

**Be Calm:** There is always going to be that one driver who is impatient, pushy and waits till the last minute to merge. Do not let his/her bad driving make you do something dangerous. Remain calm and focused and allow as much room as possible for safety. Give yourself an out if things go bad. Never pass on the shoulder. That should be left clear for emergency vehicles.

**Be Alert:** Pay attention to your surroundings. Not all drivers are experienced in driving in heavy construction traffic, so be alert for rubbernecking, moving equipment and workers. Avoid distractions like eating or talking on the phone. Don't let yourself get stressed out. This will distract you also. Keep in mind that the delay is only temporary. Getting rushed can cause an accident that will delay you far longer.

**Plan Ahead:** Give yourself extra time to make appointment times during the summer months. Construction areas often mean long delays. By planning ahead and giving yourself time you will avoid frustrations. It is a good idea to plan routes that will take you around construction areas.

### Understanding Traffic Signs

#### Types of Signs

- 1. Regulatory
- 2. Warning
- 3. Guide

Passenger Safety Texas Cooperative Extension

### The Purpose of Color

- \* **Red** – Stop
- \* **Yellow** – Caution
- \* **Orange** – Construction
- \* **Green** – Go



# Be Safe!